

WE CAN TURN IT AROUND

Blues stay alive but it's over for Wasps

TOMMY Mooney handed Wanderers a play-off semi-final lifeline and then insisted the Blues can overturn their 2-1 first leg deficit in Thursday's return at Cheltenham.

He scored deep into injury time to keep the tie alive and give away-day specialists Wanderers every chance of winning at Whaddon Road and reaching the final at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium.

The Blues have already won 11 times on their travels in league and cup this season and Mooney is confident they can make it 12 and square up to Lincoln or Grimsby in the final on May 28.

The 34-year-old, who delayed a hernia operation to play, said: "We weren't exactly dead and buried, but at 2-0 down it was looking increasingly difficult for us. But, with a one goal deficit, we feel confident.

"We are a far better team away from home and we've given ourselves an excellent chance of getting to Cardiff.

"Psychologically the advantage is

with us now. With a couple of minutes to go before the final whistle Cheltenham thought they were cruising to the final but now we've given them something to think about."

Russell Martin, who had a hand in Wanderers' 94th minute goal, said: "We needed a lifeline and Tommy gave us a massive one. Their players were gutted at the end because they know all we need to do is score one against them down there to take it to extra time."

Blues caretaker boss Steve Brown said: "I am very confident because I know we will score at Cheltenham. All the pressure is on them now. A lot of their players will be jittery and I'm not sure they have got the experienced players to handle that."

But, while Wanderers live to fight another day, Wasps' hopes of landing a fourth consecutive Premiership title were ended when they lost 22-12 to Sale in the Zurich Premiership Final on Sunday.



We can grab a place in the final: Tommy Mooney and Joe Burnell celebrate Mooney's injury-time goal which has kept Wanderers' play-off dream alive

Picture by DAVID JAFFRAY